

CRISPIN AKERMAN

Crispin Akerman has earned a significant reputation for the elegant simplicity and fine balance he achieves within his favoured genre of still life painting. He uses a timeless vocabulary of domestic items such as fruit, ceramics, eggs, pitchers and books, presented against the textural folds of table linen and drapery. Crispin uses props which are readily at hand and while they are largely observational, he explains, "the subjects allow for the exploration of harmony, balance/tension, light and atmosphere. In still life, these everyday items become great subjects for the study of objects in space. These paintings explore their intimate nature in a non-specific location". Still life did not emerge as a genre in its own right until the early 17th century, where it had its greatest currency in central Europe. Often collections of objects were arranged to display a painter's virtuosity, or put together in association with each other to have a significance beyond their individual appearance. The elements that Crispin finds so interesting about his genre are "the contemplative potential in it, the suggestion of the kinetic in the static, [and] the metaphysical promise present in the very words 'still life'".

Born in England, Crispin Akerman came to Australia with his family in 1966. He spent many years in the music industry but decided in 1989 to pursue his lifelong interest in the visual arts. He received a Bachelor of Visual Arts from the Canberra School of Art in 1992 and has since received significant recognition for his painting. Crispin's first solo exhibition was held at Beaver Galleries in 1995 and his popularity has gone from strength to strength with each exhibition. Crispin's paintings are represented in the collections of Artbank, Parliament House, BHP Billiton, and the Australian National University.

BIOGRAPHY

- 1960 Born Dorset, UK
- 1966 Emigrated to Australia (WA)
- 1980-88 Professional musician (founding member of the Eurogliders)
- 1990 Technical Assistant to Mandy Martin, Canberra
- 1992 Bachelor of Visual Arts, Canberra School of Art
- 1993 Technical Assistant to Robert Boynes, Canberra
- 1994 Prop maker for Comedy Capers Theatre Group
- 1999 Artist in residence, Northern Territory University

SOLO EXHIBITIONS

- 2010 Beaver Galleries, Canberra
- 2009 Jan Murphy Gallery, Brisbane
Hill Smith Fine Art Gallery, Adelaide
- 2008 "This is a good moment", Michael Reid Gallery, Murrurundi, NSW
Greenhill Galleries, Perth
- 2007 Beaver Galleries, Canberra
Jan Murphy Gallery, Brisbane
Greenhill Galleries, Perth
- 2006 Greenhill Gallery, Perth
Hill Smith Gallery, Adelaide
Michael Carr Art Dealer, Sydney
- 2005 Jan Murphy Gallery, Brisbane
Michael Carr Art Dealer, Sydney
Beaver Galleries, Canberra
- 2004 Beaver Galleries, Canberra
Greenhill Galleries, Perth
Gallery 460, Sydney
- 2003 Hill Smith Fine Art Gallery, Adelaide
Jan Murphy Gallery, Brisbane
Greenhill Galleries, Perth
- 2002 Gunyulgup Galleries, Yallingup, WA
Gallery 460, Gosford, NSW
Beaver Galleries, Canberra
- 2001 Gunyulgup Galleries, Yallingup, WA

- 2000 Beaver Galleries, Canberra
 Gunyulgup Galleries, Yallingup, WA
 Jan Murphy Gallery, Brisbane
 Gallery 460, Gosford, NSW
- 1999 Jan Murphy Gallery, Brisbane
 "Still Life Paintings", Beaver Galleries, Canberra
 Libby Edwards Galleries, Melbourne
- 1998 "Paintings from the story *Picnic at Hanging Rock*", Beaver Galleries, Canberra
 Jan Murphy Gallery, Brisbane
 Gallery 460, Gosford, NSW
 Libby Edwards Galleries, Melbourne
- 1995 "28 degs. 15 mins. south", Beaver Galleries, Canberra
 "Still Life", Collette Dinnigan Studio, Sydney
- 1993 "Cafe au Gough-Gough", The Gods Cafe, ANU Canberra

SELECTED GROUP EXHIBITIONS

- 2011 Bassendean Visual Art Awards, Cyril Jackson Recreation Centre, Perth
 "Home grown", Greenhill Galleries, Perth
 "Squared", Greenhill Galleries, Perth
 "Lust", Brenda May Gallery, Sydney
- 2010 Stanthorpe Art Festival, Stanthorpe Regional Gallery, NSW
- 2009 "Squared", Greenhill Galleries, Perth
 "Sketched", Greenhill Galleries, Perth
- 2008 "Squared", Greenhill Galleries, Perth
 "Small Works", Jan Murphy Gallery, Brisbane
 "Greenhill Galleries Opening Exhibition", Greenhill Galleries, Perth
 "Christmas Exhibition", Greenhill Galleries, Perth
 Eutick Memorial Still Life Award, Coffs Harbour Regional Gallery
- 2007 "Squared", Greenhill Galleries, Perth
 "Small Works", Jan Murphy Gallery, Brisbane
- 2006 Gallery 460, Sydney
 "Squared", Greenhill Galleries, Perth
 Melbourne Art Fair (Beaver Galleries)
 "Small Works", Jan Murphy Gallery, Brisbane
- 2005 "Squared", Greenhill Galleries, Perth
 10th Anniversary Exhibition, Jan Murphy Gallery, Brisbane
- 2004 "Fresh Paint", Greenhill Galleries, Perth
 Perth International Art Fair, Perth
 Melbourne Art Fair (with Beaver Galleries)
- 2003 "Changing Surfaces", Shepparton Art Gallery, Victoria
- 2002 Melbourne Art Fair 2002, Melbourne (Beaver Galleries)
- 2001 Nicola Townsend, Tokyo, Japan
 "The Hungry Man's Exhibition", Manning Regional Art Gallery, Taree, NSW; Touring to Grafton Regional Gallery, Orange
 Regional Gallery, Hastings Regional Gallery - Port Macquarie and Gloucester Regional Gallery
- 2000 Melbourne Art Fair 2000, Melbourne (Beaver Galleries)
 Nicola Townsend, Tokyo, Japan
- 1998 6th Australian Contemporary Art Fair, Melbourne (Beaver Galleries)
 Zonta, Perth
- 1997 Contemporary Art Fair, ANU Drill Hall Gallery, Canberra (Beaver Galleries)
 "The Summer Exhibition", Libby Edwards Galleries, Melbourne
 "Musicians and Musical Instruments", Gallery 460, Gosford, NSW
- 1996 "Imagining the Real: Recent Acquisitions from the Parliament House Art Collection", Parliament House, Canberra
 "Christmas Collection '96", Beaver Galleries, Canberra
- 1994 "Picture Writing", Jardine St Gallery, Canberra

1993 "Every Day", Spiral Arm Gallery, Canberra

AWARDS / COMMISSIONS

2011 Town of Bassendean Acquisitive Award
1994 ACT Cultural Council Grant
Maitland Art Award

PUBLICATIONS

2010 "The enduring power of still life", Sasha Grishin, *The Canberra Times*, 17 February
2007 Review, Sasha Grishin, *The Canberra Times*, 21 March
2005 "Fragile beauty unfolds", Sonia Barron, *The Canberra Times*, 8 December
2004 "Still-lives show virtuosity", Sonia Barron, *The Canberra Times*, 5 April
2002 "Beautifully composed pictures of fruit", Sonia Barron, *The Canberra Times*, 9 Dec
1999 "Simplicity core of appeal", Sonia Barron, *The Canberra Times*, 22 November
1996 "The peoples' house of art", Sasha Grishin, *The Canberra Times*, 26 June
1995 "From rock to art and the Batavia", Helen Musa, *The Canberra Times*, 25 August
"A shipwreck as inspiration", Sonia Barron, *The Canberra Times*, 1 September
"Crispin Akerman" (reviews), Kate Civil, *Muse*, September

COLLECTIONS

Parliament House, Canberra; Artbank, Sydney; Australian National University, Canberra; BHP Billiton, Sydney; St John of God Hospital Murdoch, WA.